

Customer Number 24498
Serial No. 09/822,855

Docket No. PU040192
Art Unit 2173



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Before the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences**

On re application of Alex Holtz et al. Customer Number 24498
Art Unit: 2173 Examiner: Michael Roswell
Application No.: 09/822,855 Filed: April 2, 2001
For: Method, System and Computer Program Product for Full New
Integration and Automation in a Real Time Video Production
Environment

BRIEF ON APPEAL

Applicants hereby submit this Brief on Appeal along with Applicants' Notice of Appeal from the Final Rejection of claims 1-14 made by Examiner Michael Roswell in the Official action mailed January 11, 2006.

Applicants waive their right to an Oral Argument.

Please charge the \$500 large entity fee for filing this Brief to Deposit Account **07-0832**. Kindly charge any additional fee or credit any overcharge to the above-identified deposit account.

I. Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is:

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II. Related Appeals

This is the first appeal filed in this application.

III. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-14 stand Finally Rejected in the above-identified application and applicants' appeal the rejection of claims 1-14. A copy of the claims appears in the attached appendix.

IV. Status of the Amendments

Listed below is the transaction history, as copied from the United States Patent and Trademark Office PAIR website, for U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/822,855. All of the amendments in this application have been entered, including the Amendment after Final Rejection received in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 9, 2005, which was entered by way of applicants Request for Continued Examination (RCE), filed July 14, 2005.

Date	Contents Description
01-11-2006	Mail Final Rejection (PTOL - 326)
01-09-2006	Final Rejection
11-02-2005	Date Forwarded to Examiner
10-24-2005	Response after Non-Final Action
09-08-2005	Mail Non-Final Rejection
09-06-2005	Non-Final Rejection
07-21-2005	Date Forwarded to Examiner
07-14-2005	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
07-21-2005	DISPOSAL FOR A RCE/CPA/129 (express abandonment if CPA)
07-14-2005	Workflow - Request for RCE - Begin
07-01-2005	Mail Advisory Action (PTOL - 303)
06-27-2005	Advisory Action (PTOL-303)
06-20-2005	Date Forwarded to Examiner
06-09-2005	Amendment after Final Rejection

05-25-2005	Mail Final Rejection (PTOL - 326)
05-23-2005	Final Rejection
03-17-2005	Date Forwarded to Examiner
02-14-2005	Response after Non-Final Action
02-14-2005	Workflow incoming amendment IFW
01-04-2005	Mail Non-Final Rejection
12-27-2004	Non-Final Rejection
12-08-2004	Date Forwarded to Examiner
11-26-2004	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)
12-08-2004	DISPOSAL FOR A RCE/CPA/129 (express abandonment if CPA)
11-26-2004	Workflow incoming amendment IFW
11-26-2004	Workflow - Request for RCE - Begin
11-16-2004	Mail Advisory Action (PTOL - 303)
11-14-2004	Advisory Action (PTOL-303)
10-25-2004	IFW TSS Processing by Tech Center Complete
10-25-2004	Correspondence Address Change
10-25-2004	Date Forwarded to Examiner
09-27-2004	Amendment after Final Rejection
09-27-2004	Workflow incoming amendment IFW
08-13-2004	Mail Final Rejection (PTOL - 326)
08-08-2004	Final Rejection
06-03-2004	Date Forwarded to Examiner
05-05-2004	Response after Non-Final Action
05-05-2004	Workflow incoming amendment IFW
03-02-2004	Electronic Information Disclosure Statement
02-06-2004	Mail Non-Final Rejection
02-04-2004	Non-Final Rejection

12-15-2003	Electronic Information Disclosure Statement
12-11-2003	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed
12-22-2003	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU
10-20-2003	Miscellaneous Incoming Letter
07-01-2003	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU
09-03-2002	Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed
01-25-2002	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU
10-07-2001	Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU
08-31-2001	Application Dispatched from OIPE
05-08-2001	Application Is Now Complete
05-08-2001	Notice Mailed--Application Incomplete--Filing Date Assigned
05-08-2001	Correspondence Address Change
04-14-2001	IFW Scan & PACR Auto Security Review
04-02-2001	Initial Exam Team nn

V. Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

Claim 1 recites a method for producing a show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording in a production environment having at least one processing unit in communications with a plurality of production devices that comprises the steps of:

- (a) receiving a show rundown manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files (Page 5, paragraph 18, FIG. 2); and
- (b) converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting commands to at least a camera, and a robotic pan/tilt head (Page 5, paragraph 18, FIG. 2).

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and further recites that step (a) comprises receiving at least one story file that includes a script or graphic effects (page 12, paragraph 51, FIG. 2)

wherein step (b) comprises converting the at least one story file into executable broadcast instructions for enabling the transmitting of at least one command to said teleprompting means to display said script during production of the show, or at least one command to a production device to integrate the graphic effects with video associated with the at least one story file during production of the show (Page 18, paragraph 18, FIG. 2)

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and further comprises the step of:

(c) monitoring inter-file activity and synchronizing said show rundown with said broadcast instructions (Page 24, paragraph 74, FIG. 2).

Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and further comprises the step of:

(i) periodically polling said show rundown to detect inter-file modifications, including changes within said story files or the addition or deletion of story files to said show rundown (Page 25, paragraph 74).

Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and further comprises the step of:

(ii) updating said broadcast instructions with said inter-file modifications to implement said synchronizing (Page 24, paragraph 74, FIG. 3.)

Claim 6 depends from claim 5 and further comprises the step of:

(A) updating only an unexecuted portion of said broadcast instructions (Page 25, paragraph 74).

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and further comprises the step of:

(B) adjusting said unexecuted broadcast instructions such that a total execution time for said broadcast instructions does not exceed a predetermined time (Page 25, paragraph 74).

Claim 8 depends from claim 3 and further comprises the step of:

updating said broadcast instructions in real time with inter-file modifications, including changes within said story files or the addition or deletion of files to said show rundown (Page 25, paragraph 74)

Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and further comprises the step of:

(c) associating one or more broadcast element files with each story file of said plurality of story files to link a group of production commands to each story file (Page 14, paragraph 49).

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and further comprises the step of:

(i) populating a broadcast instructions time sheet with production icons that, when activated, execute corresponding broadcast instructions to enable said transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices, wherein a group of production icons is associated with a broadcast element file (Page 20, paragraph 64, Page 21, paragraph 65).

Claim 11 recites a step of producing a show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording in a production environment having at least one processing unit in communications with a plurality of production devices, including a camera and a robotic pan/tilt head, comprising:

means for receiving a show rundown manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files (Page 5, paragraph 18, FIG. 2 and Page 12, paragraph 44); and

means for converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed, in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices including the camera and the robotic pan/tilt head to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording (Page 5, paragraph 18, FIG. 2, Page 12, paragraph 44 and Page 14, paragraph 49).

Claim 12 depends from claim 11 and further comprises:

means for monitoring inter-file activity and synchronizing said show rundown with said broadcast instructions (Page 24, paragraph 74, FIG. 3).

Claim 13 recites a computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means stored therein for causing a computer to produce a show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording in a production environment having a plurality of video production devices, including a camera and a robotic pan/tilt head said computer readable program code means comprising:

a first computer readable program code means for enabling the computer to receive a show rundown manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files ((Page 5, paragraph 18, FIG. 2 and Page 12, paragraph 44); and

a second computer readable program code means for enabling the computer to convert said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed, in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices including the camera and the robotic pan/tilt head to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording (Page 5, paragraph 18, FIG. 2, Page 12, paragraph 44 and Page 14, paragraph 49).

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and further comprises:

a third computer readable program code means for enabling the computer to monitor inter-file activity and synchronize said show rundown with said broadcast instructions (Page 24, paragraph 74, FIG. 3).

VI. Grounds of Rejection for Review of Appeal

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 13 stand Finally Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,795,228 in the name of Douglas Trumbull et al.

Claims 3-6, 8, 12 and 14 stand Finally Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Trumbull et al. in view of U.S. Patent 6,437,802 in the name of Kevin B. Kenny.

Claims 7 and 9 stand Finally Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Trumbull et al. patent, in view of the Kenny patent, further in view of U.S. Patent 6,441,832 to Akihiko Tao et al.

Claim 10 stands Finally Rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Kenny patent in view of the Tao et al. patent, further in view of U.S. Patent 5,450,140 in the name of Kinya Washino.

VII. Arguments

1. The 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 11 and 13

a. The Trumbull et al. Patent

The Trumbull patent concerns an interactive-computer based system that interacts with a user to present audio-visual and/or computer-generated images responsive to user input signals. A user interface receives signals from the user that specifying selected content, i.e., selected audio, video and/or computer images desired by the user. For example, the user enters input signals to interact with ongoing entertainment. One or more of the input signals generated by the user allow a database to identify the user and to retrieve an associated profile for that user. In accordance with the profile, an activity server generates a set of show control signals that designated audio, video and or computer-generated graphical images that reflect the user's desired interaction with the entertainment presented to the user.

b. The examiner's arguments regarding claims 1, 2, 11 and 13.

The examiner contends that Trumbull et al. teach a method system and computer program for producing a show in a production environment having at least one processing unit in communications with a plurality of production devices where the method, system and computer program receives a show run down manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files that include news video clips and other files selected by an operator (i.e., a producer.) Further, the examiner contends that the Trumbull et al. patent discloses converting the show rundown into broadcast instructions to control a plurality of production devices, including a video camera, as seen in FIG. 2-4 of that patent.

c. Applicants' arguments in support of the allowability of Claims 1, 2, 11 and 13

Independent claims 1, 11, and 13, and claim 2, which depends from claim 1, all recite the feature of:

converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of

transmission and recording, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting commands to at least a camera, and a robotic pan/tilt head.

The Trumbull et al. patent does not show or disclose this feature of applicants' invention. To the extent that Trumbull et al. converts a show rundown into broadcast instructions, such instructions do not undergo execution in a step-by-step manner in response to a manual trigger from the producer. Further, the broadcast instructions of Trumbull et al. do not control a camera and pan/tilt head. In his rejection of claims 1, 11, and 13, the examiner relies on the disclosure in the Trumbull et al. patent at Col. 13, lines. 19-21 as teaching applicants' step of converting the show rundown into broadcast instructions for controlling a plurality of production devices. A careful examination of this section of the Trumbull et al. patent reveals no disclosure or suggestion of step-by step execution of such instructions responsive to a manual trigger by a producer.

The examiner's suggestion that the Trumbull et al. patent suggests transmitting instructions to control the camera (58) lacks foundation as well. Referring to FIG. 4, the video camera (58) of Trumbull et al. provides an output signal to the video playback and mixing station (48). Nothing in FIG. 4 or in the specification of Trumbull et al. indicates any control of that camera. Applicants find it significant that the control line between the camera and the video playback and mixing station points in a single direction, **namely away from the camera in FIG. 4.** In the absence of any arrow or other indication in FIG. 4 that control signals flow into the camera, the examiner simply cannot say that the camera (58) of Trumbull undergoes control by the video playback and mixing station (48).

Given that the Trumbull et al. patent fails to teach the applicants' feature of step-by step execution of such instructions responsive to a manual trigger by a producer **to control a camera and pan/tilt unit**, claims 1, 11, and 13 patentably distinguish over this patent. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and incorporates by reference all of the features of its parent claim. Therefore, claim 2 patentably distinguishes over the Trumbull et al. patent for the same reasons as claim 1.

2. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 3-6, 8-12 and 14

a. The Trumbull et al. patent

Applicants have described the Trumbull et al. patent in connection with the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 11 and 13. For the sake of brevity, applicants will not repeat

a description of that patent here. Applicants reiterate that Trumbull et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of step-by step execution of broadcast instructions responsive to a manual trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

b. The Kenny patent

The Kenny patent concerns a technique for throttling commands in a broadcast automation system by interleaving play list loads and edit commands. In this way, devices within the system can receive an incomplete schedule for immediate execution. As later events undergo processing, the devices can execute such events as they become processed. The Kenny patent remains silent regarding receipt of the show rundown files and conversion to broadcast instructions, let alone step-by step execution of such broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

c. The examiner's rejection of claims 3-6, 8, 12 and 14

The examiner has rejected claims 3-6, 8, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over the Trumbull et al. patent, in view the Kenny patent. With respect to claims 3, 12, and 14, the examiner argues that Trumbull et al. discloses a system, method and computer program for receiving a show rundown and converting the rundown into broadcast instructions. Trumbull fails to disclose monitoring inter-file activity and synchronizing the show rundown with broadcast instructions, but Kenny provides such a teaching. Regarding claim 4, the examiner contends that Kenny show polling the show rundown to detect inter-file modifications. As for claim 5, the examiner contends that the broadcast instructions for Kenny must be inherently updated in order for changes in order for play list changes to occur. Regarding claim 6, the examiner contends that Kenny teaches updating a queue of unexpected events. Lastly, as for claim 8, the examiner maintains that Kenny teaches updating of the broadcast instructions in real time.

d. Applicants' arguments in support of the patentability of Claims 3-6, 8, 12 and 14.

As discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 2, 11 13, Trumbull et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of step-by step execution of broadcast

instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit. The Kenny patent, like Trumbull et al. also fails to disclose this feature of applicants' claims 1, 11, and 13.

Claims 3-6 and 8 depend from claim 1, whereas claims 12 and 14 depend from claims 11 and 13, respectively. Thus claims 3-6 and 8, claim 11 and claim 12 incorporate by reference all of the features of claims 1, 11, and 13, respectively. Neither the Trumbull et al. patent nor the Kenny patent, nor the combination, teaches applicants' feature of step-by step execution of broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit. Therefore claims 3-6 and 8, claim 11 and claim 12 patentably distinguish over the art of record for the same reasons as claims 1, 11, and 12, respectively.

3. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 7 and 9

a. The Trumbull et al. patent

Applicants have described the Trumbull et al. patent in connection with the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 11 and 13. For the sake of brevity, applicants will not repeat a description of that patent here. Applicants reiterate that Trumbull et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of step-by step execution of broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

b. The Kenny patent

Applicants have described the Kenny in connection with the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 3-6, 8, 12 and 14. For the sake of brevity, applicants will not repeat a description again here. Applicants reiterate that the Kenny patent does not teach or suggest receiving show rundown files and converting them to broadcast instructions, let alone step-by step execution of such broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

c. The Tao et al. patent

The Tao et al. patent teaches a hierarchical processing video and audio processing apparatus for editing a play list. A display device displays the first and second play list hierarchies to allow interaction between the play lists. Like Trumbull et al. and Kenny, Tao et al. does not teach step-by step execution of broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

d. The examiner's rejection of claims 7 and 9

The examiner contends that Trumbull and Kenny teach an automation system capable of detecting inter-file modifications, implementing synchronization between a show rundown and broadcast instructions, and updating only the executed broadcast instructions. While the examiner concedes that Kenny and Trumbull et al. do not teach adjusting the unexecuted instructions, the examiner maintains that the Tao et al. patent provides such teaching.

e. Applicants arguments in support of the patentability of claims 7 and 9.

Applicants' claims 7 and 9 ultimately depend 1 and each incorporates by reference all of the features of its parent claim. Thus, claims 7 and 9 incorporate the feature of:

converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting commands to at least a camera, and a robotic pan/tilt head.

As discussed above neither Trumbull et al, nor Kenny teach the conversion of show rundown instructions into broadcast instructions for controlling a camera and a robotic pan tilt head. The Tao et al. patent also fails to provide any such teaching either. Given the failure of all three references relied upon to provide a teaching of all the features in claims 7 and 9, these claims patentably distinguish over the art of record.

4. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claim 10

a. The Trumbull et al. patent

Applicants have described the Trumbull et al. patent in connection with the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 11 and 13. For the sake of brevity, applicants will not repeat a description of that patent here. Applicants reiterate that Trumbull et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of step-by step execution of broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

b. The Kenny patent

Applicants have described the Kenny in connection with the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 3-6, 8, 12 and 14. For the sake of brevity, applicants will not repeat a description again here. Applicants reiterate that the Kenny patent does not teach or suggest receiving show rundown files and converting them to broadcast instructions, let alone step-by step execution of such broadcast instructions responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

c. The Tao et al. patent

Applicants have described the Tao et al. patent in connection with the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejection of Claims 7 and 9. For sake of brevity, applicants will not repeat that discussion here. Applicants reiterate that the Tao et al. patent, like the Trumbull et al, and Kenny patents, does not teach the conversion of show rundown instructions into broadcast instructions for controlling a camera and a robotic pan tilt head

d. The Washino patent

The Washino patent describes a personal computer-based video production system comprising a plurality of custom adapters that each interface the combination of a television camera, pan/tilt mount and tally light, to a custom interface connected to a computer. By using the computer, an operator can select and control individual cameras. However, the Washino patent contains no disclosure of applicants feature of converting a show into

broadcast instructions for step-by step execution responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit.

e. The examiner's ground of rejection of Claim 10

The examiner contends that the combination of Trumbull et al., Kenny and Tao et al. teach a broadcast instruction time sheet with the ability to create several play list files. While the examiner concedes that the combination of Trumbull et al., Kenny and Tao et al. does not teach populating the broadcast instruction sheet with icons, he maintains that Washino provides such a teaching.

f. Applicants' arguments for the patentability of Claim 10.

Claim 10 ultimately depends from claim 1 and incorporates by reference the feature of:

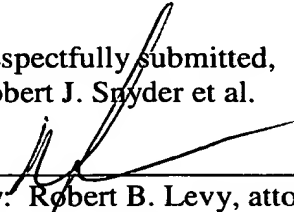
converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting commands to at least a camera, and a robotic pan/tilt head.

As discussed above, none of the Trumbull et al. Kenny and Tao et al. patents, nor any combination thereof, teach step-by step execution of broadcast instructions responsive to a manual trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit. The Washino patent likewise contains no disclosure of applicants' feature of converting a show into broadcast instructions for step-by step execution responsive to a manually trigger by a producer to control a camera and pan/tilt unit. While Washino does disclose a camera and pan/tilt unit, the patent contains no disclosure regarding the feature of populating broadcast instructions into a time sheet as recited in claim 10. The disclosure cited by the examiner at Col. 2, lines 10-15 of Washino describes the use of icons on the same screen as the image, not on a screen showing the icon in time-relation to other commands, as in the case when the icons populate a time instruction sheet as recited in claim 10. Therefore, claim 10 patentably distinguishes over the combination of the Trumbull et al., Tao et al., Kenny, and Washino patents.

VIII Conclusion

In summary, none of the Trumbull et al. Kenny and Tao et al. or Washino patents, either alone or in any combination, teaches the features recited in applicants' claims 1-14. Therefore, applicants respectfully request reversal of the various rejections of the claims.

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APPENDIX

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording in a production environment having at least one processing unit in communications with a plurality of production devices, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a show rundown manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files; and
- (b) converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording, wherein said transmitting includes transmitting commands to at least a camera, and a robotic pan/tilt head.

2. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises receiving at least one story file that includes a script or graphic effects, wherein step (b) comprises converting the at least one story file into executable broadcast instructions for enabling the transmitting of at least one command to said teleprompting means to display said script during production of the show, or at least one command to a production device to integrate the graphic effects with video associated with the at least one story file during production of the show.

3. (original) A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

- (c) monitoring inter-file activity and synchronizing said show rundown with said broadcast instructions.

4. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 3, wherein said step (c) further comprises the step of:

- (i) periodically polling said show rundown to detect inter-file modifications, including changes within said story files or the addition or deletion of story files to said show rundown.

5. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 4, wherein said step (c) further comprises the step of:

(ii) updating said broadcast instructions with said inter-file modifications to implement said synchronizing.

6. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 5, wherein said step (ii) further comprises the step of:

(A) updating only an unexecuted portion of said broadcast instructions.

7. (Original) A method of claim 6, wherein said step (ii) further comprises the step of:

(B) adjusting said unexecuted broadcast instructions such that a total execution time for said broadcast instructions does not exceed a predetermined time.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 3, wherein said step (c) comprises the step of:

updating said broadcast instructions in real time with inter-file modifications, including changes within said story files or the addition or deletion of files to said show rundown.

9. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
(c) associating one or more broadcast element files with each story file of said plurality of story files to link a group of production commands to each story file.

10. (Previously Presented) A method of claim 9, wherein said step (b) comprises the step of:

(i) populating a broadcast instructions time sheet with production icons that, when activated, execute corresponding broadcast instructions to enable said transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices, wherein a group of production icons is associated with a broadcast element file.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for producing a show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording in a production environment having at least one processing unit in communications with a plurality of production devices, including a camera and a robotic pan/tilt head, comprising:

means for receiving a show rundown manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files; and

means for converting said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed, in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices including the camera and the robotic pan/tilt head to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording.

12. (Previously Presented) A system of claim 11, further comprising:

means for monitoring inter-file activity and synchronizing said show rundown with said broadcast instructions.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code means stored therein for causing a computer to produce a show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording in a production environment having a plurality of video production devices, including a camera and a robotic pan/tilt head said computer readable program code means comprising:

a first computer readable program code means for enabling the computer to receive a show rundown manually assembled by a producer to comprise a plurality of story files; and

a second computer readable program code means for enabling the computer to convert said show rundown into broadcast instructions that, when executed, in a step-by-step manner responsive to a manual trigger from the producer in an event-driven manner, enable the transmitting of commands to control the plurality of production devices including the camera and the robotic pan/tilt head to thereby produce the show live in real time for at least one of transmission and recording.

14. (Previously Presented) A computer program product according to claim 13, further comprising:

a third computer readable program code means for enabling the computer to monitor inter-file activity and synchronize said show rundown with said broadcast instructions.